

**PRESENTATION OF DAME ROMA MITCHELL
FOR THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
BY THE CHANCELLOR, DR BASIL HETZEL**

It is a great honour and privilege for me as Chancellor to present Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia Dame Roma Mitchell for the award of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.

Dame Roma Mitchell has had an outstanding career at the Bar over 31 years from 1934-1965. She was Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia for 18 years (1965-1983). She was also Chancellor of the University of Adelaide for 7 years (1983-1990). Since 1991 Dame Roma has been Governor of South Australia.

Dame Roma has the unique distinctions of being the first woman QC in Australia and the first woman Supreme Court Judge in Australia and the first woman Governor in Australia.

She has been Chairman of a number of State Legal Commissions, and the State Heritage Committee of SA. Dame Roma held the notable position of Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Australia from its inception in 1981 until the Act was proclaimed in 1986.

In 1982 she was appointed by Her Majesty the Queen a Dame of the British Empire for Services to the community, and in 1991 a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Since becoming Governor, Dame Roma has become well known throughout the State to people of all walks of life. She provides a notable Vice Regal presence at a great variety of functions throughout the State.

She is particularly noted for her ability to meet and relate so readily and happily to people in all walks of life. Dame Roma is held in the deepest respect and affection by all South Australians.

It is an honour for me to present Dame Roma Mitchell for the degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of her outstanding career, personal integrity and remarkable fostering of community life in South Australia.

On behalf of the University I confer on you Dame Roma Mitchell the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.